Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 EURE-00 /126 W

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P R 061458Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1410 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY NICOSIA USMISSION NATO AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 6215

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, PINR, GR, TU

SUBJ: GREEK AND TURKISH CRAFT APPREHENDED IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ATHENS 3213

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: GREEK AND TURKISH AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO SEIZE SMALL CRAFT OF THE OTHER'S NATIONALITY IN THE CONFINED WATERS BETWEEN THE GREEK OFFSHORE ISLANDS AND THE TURKISH COAST IN THE AEGEAN. FOR INSTANCE, ON JULY 1, A PRIVATE GREEK FISHING VESSEL WAS APPARENTLY DETAINED BY A TURKISH PATROL CRAFT FOR ALLEGEDLY FISHING IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. THE THREE GREEKS ABOARD ARE BEING HELD IN THE PORT OF DIKELI AWAITING JUDICIAL ACTION.

2. ON JULY 3, A GREEK PATROL CRAFT DETAINED TWO SMALL BOATS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIVE TURKS ABOARD FOR ILLEGALLY ENTERING GREEK WATERS OFF LESVOS. THE TURKS CLAIMED THEY WERE SAILING FROM CESME TO ISTANBUL, BUT HAD BEEN DRIVEN OFF COURSE BY STRONG ADVERSE WINDS. A COURT OF MISDEMEANORS IN MYTILINI (LESVOS) SENTENCED THE TURKS TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND ORDERED THE CONFISCATION OF THE BOATS. THE TURKS ARE STILL IMPRISONED PENDING AN APPEAL OF THEIR SENTENCE.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE WORKING LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR TURKISH AFFAIRS SHOWED LITTLE CONCERN IN DISCUSSING THESE EVENTS WITH AN EMBOFF. THE MFA OFFICIAL MAINTAINED THAT THE GREEK BOAT HAD BEEN FISHING IN "OPEN WATERS" OFF PAMFILLA (LESVOS), AND AS EVIDENCE OF ITS POSITION HAD DROPPED A MARK AT ITS LOCATION WHEN IT WAS SEIZED BY THE TURKS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, THE TWO TURKISH CRAFT WERE IN GREEK WATERS ONLY 50 METERS OFF THE COAST OF THE ISLAND OF LESVOS WHEN THEY WERE DETAINED. THE MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS IN THE PAST AND WOULD LIKELY BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE. HE BELIEVED THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO PARTICULAR SEIZURES AND SAID NO OFFICIAL PROTESTS HAD BEEN MADE BY EITHER SIDE. END LOU. KUBISCH

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